

0. CHILD MINERS - THEN and NOW - Story Preface

1. SNOW WHITE - COULD SHE BE MARGARETE?

2. SNOW WHITE - COULD SHE BE MARIA?

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Teach Sloan was an Appalachian coal miner who worked very hard to earn a living for his family. In this image we see him with his son. [Image online](#), via Earl Palmer Appalachian Photograph and Artifact Collection, Ms89-025 - Special Collections, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va. Copyright, Virginia Tech, all rights reserved. Image provided here as fair use for educational purposes and to acquaint new viewers with the Earl Palmer Collection.

Britain needed so many workers during the Industrial Revolution that children were employed in all kinds of jobs. Child miners were in especially high demand.

To keep the steam engines running, and the factories fully staffed, the country consumed huge amounts of coal. Very young children helped to get the coal out of the mines. Their jobs were very dangerous and exhausting:

- In the 1840s, about 5,000 British children - between the ages of 5 and 10 - worked in the underground mines.
- Some of the children worked as trappers. They helped to maintain good air-flow in the mines, thereby avoiding a dangerous build-up of gases.
- Other children served as drawers. They were responsible for getting truckloads of coal from inside the mine to the surface.
- Older children did other dangerous work, such as operating mine-shaft pulleys. Life expectancy, for jobs like these, was very short.

All the child miners, from the youngest to the oldest, were consistently covered in dirt, grime and coal dust. Their pay was poor, but whatever they brought home was used to help support their families.

The children of working families, in the United Kingdom, thus helped to build what became Victorian Britain. Their lives were very different from their counterparts who were born into upper-class families.

When the Industrial Revolution began in America, children were also put to work in mines, fields, canneries, mills, glassworks and wherever else hard work was needed. Lewis Hine (who was employed by the National Child Labor Committee) took many pictures of these working children in the early 1900s. Let's examine some of his photos:

- A young boy - from Brown, West Virginia - was a mine driver who worked everyday from 7 AM to 5:30 PM.
- James O'Dell - about 12 or 13 - was a greaser and coupler near Coal Creek, Tennessee. He also pushed heavy loads of coal.
- Some of the boy miners in West Virginia (and elsewhere) worked with mules, deep inside the mines.
- Stooping in mines - because of narrow seams and low ceilings like those at Turkey Knob Mine at Macdonald,

West Virginia - was a common event.

- Everyone working in coal mines - including children - had to "put up with" coal dust like these workers near South Pittston, Pennsylvania.
- Accidents happen in mines, as demonstrated by a fall of slate which blocked an entry at the Turkey Knob Mine.
- In addition to child miners, young children filled other jobs - covering midnight shifts as well as day shifts - like youngsters working at a West Virginia glassworks plant.
- Boys, using unguarded circular saws, helped at lumber mills and furniture factories.
- Children working at the Loray textile mill - in Gastonia, North Carolina - were sometimes shoeless.
- Living near Sterling, Colorado a ten-year-old boy used a dangerous beet-topping knife. According to Lewis Hine - the photographer - the child was part of "a well-to-do family, but kept out of school to work."

Child miners are still hard at work in various countries. (In 2007, it was estimated that "over 1 million children," around the world, were working in mines and quarries.) A few examples can be found in Bolivia, Ukraine and Tanzania:

- Children - with or without parents - walk an hour to work in a Bolivian mine. They are responsible for "earning their daily bread."
- Known for its beautiful blue gemstones, Tanzania has child miners who help to find Tanzanite in the Mererani mines of northern Tanzania. For these children, "school and a normal childhood are beyond their means."
- Ukrainian children help to support themselves, and their families, by finding what they can in abandoned mines.

Upperclass children did not experience the type of hardship endured by child miners. Even so ... life in a stately home, or castle, was not always so pleasant for well-to-do children. Yet ... when we think about castles ... we often associate them with a fairy-tale kind of existence.

One of the best places to overview a "fairy tale life" is along Germany's "Fairy Tale Road."

ISSUES AND QUESTIONS TO PONDER: Small people were needed to work the mines so that coal could be removed from narrow seams and returned to the surface through narrow passages. Does that justify the use of child labor in mines? Why, or why not?

Which photo, included in this chapter, is the most disturbing? What makes it so?

Which video, included in this chapter, is the most disturbing? What makes it so?

Do you think the seven dwarfs - in the story of "Snow White" - might have been miners when they were children? Why, or why not?

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/CHILD-MINERS-THEN-and-NOW-Snow-White>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/CHILD-MINERS-THEN-and-NOW-Snow-White>

Media Stream



Child Miners - Mine Driver

Photo of child miner, by Lewis Hine, online via Library of Congress.

The LOC provides the following additional information regarding the photograph, including its description which Hine wrote:

Title: Young Driver in Mine: Had been driving one year. (7 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. Daily) Brown Mine, Brown, W. Va. Location: Brown, West Virginia.

Creator(s): Hine, Lewis Wickes, 1874-1940, photographer

Date Created/Published: 1908 September.

Medium: 1 photographic print.

Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-nclc-01059 (color digital file from b&w original print) LC-USZ62-38228 (b&w film copy negative)

Call Number: LOT 7477, no. 0136 [P&P]

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Child-Miners-Mine-Driver>

Child Miners - 12-Year Old Performs Heavy Labor

Lewis Hine photo, online courtesy Library of Congress.

The LOC provides the following additional information about this photograph:

Hard work and dangerous for such a young boy. James O'Dell, a greaser and coupler on the tipple of the Cross Mountain Mine, Knoxville Iron Co. in the vicinity of Coal Creek, Tenn. James has been there four months. Helps push these heavily loaded cars. Appears to be about 12 or 13 years old. Location: Coal Creek, Tennessee.



Creator(s): Hine, Lewis Wickes, 1874-1940, photographer

Date Created/Published: 1910 December.

Medium: 1 photographic print.

1 negative: glass; 5 x 7 in.

Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-nclc-01105 (color digital file from b&w original print)

LC-DIG-nclc-05466 (b&w digital file from original glass negative)

Call Number: LOT 7477, no. 1916 [P&P] LC-H5- 1916

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Child-Miners-12-Year-Old-Performs-Heavy-Labor>

Child Miners with Mules

Photo by Lewis Hine, online courtesy Library of Congress.

The LOC provides the following information about the photo, including Hine's description:

Drivers in a Coal Mine Co. Plenty boys driving and on tipple. No trappers used, as mine is ventilated by another system. Location: West Virginia.

Creator(s): Hine, Lewis Wickes, 1874-1940, photographer

Date Created/Published: 1908 October.

Medium: 1 photographic print.

Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-nclc-01064 (color digital file from b&w original print) LC-USZ62-77134 (b&w film copy negative)

Call Number: LOT 7477, no. 0141 [P&P]

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Child-Miners-with-Mules>



Child Miners - Stooping in a Mine Seam

Lewis Hine photo, online courtesy Library of Congress.

The LOC provides the following information about this photo, including a description written by Lewis Hine:

Trapper Boy, Turkey Knob Mine, Macdonald, W. Va. Boy had to stoop on account of low roof, photo taken more than a mile inside the mine. Witness E. N. Clopper. Location: MacDonald, West Virginia.

Creator(s): Hine, Lewis Wickes, 1874-1940, photographer

Date Created/Published: 1908 October.

Medium: 1 photographic print.

Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-nclc-01070 (color digital file from b&w original print)

LC-USZ62-23737 (b&w film copy negative)

Call Number: LOT 7477, no. 0148 [P&P]

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Child-Miners-Stooping-in-a-Mine-Seam>

Child Miners - Working in Coal Dust

Photo by Lewis Hine, online courtesy Library of Congress.

The LOC provides the following additional information about the photo, including a description written by Lewis Hine:

A view of Ewen Breaker of the Pa. [Pennsylvania] Coal Co. The dust was so dense at times as to obscure the view. This dust penetrates the utmost recesses of the boys' lungs.

Location: South Pittston, Pennsylvania.

Creator(s): Hine, Lewis Wickes, 1874-1940, photographer

Date Created/Published: 1911, January.

Medium: 1 photographic print.

Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-nclc-01132 (color digital file from b&w original print)

LC-USZ62-23749 (b&w film copy negative)

Call Number: LOT 7477, no. 1943 [P&P]

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Child-Miners-Working-in-Coal-Dust>

Mine Accident - Falling Slate

Lewis Hine photo, online courtesy Library of Congress.

The LOC provides additional information about the photograph, including a description written by Lewis Hine:

Bank Boss, Turkey Knob Mine, Macdonald, W. Va., and a great fall of Slate that blocked entry. Witness E. N. Clopper. Location: MacDonald, West Virginia.

Creator(s): Hine, Lewis Wickes, 1874-1940, photographer

Date Created/Published: 1908 October.

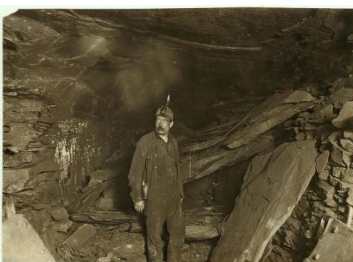
Medium: 1 photographic print.

Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-nclc-01069 (color digital file from b&w original print)

LC-USZ62-20507 (b&w film copy negative)

Call Number: LOT 7477, no. 0147 [P&P]

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Mine-Accident-Falling-Slate>



Child Labor - Glassworks

Lewis Hine photo, online courtesy Library of Congress.

The LOC provides additional information about this photograph, including a description written by Lewis Hine:

Central Glass Company, Wheeling, W. Va. Dozens of small boys here. Location: Wheeling, West Virginia.



Creator(s): Hine, Lewis Wickes, 1874-1940, photographer

Date Created/Published: 1908 October.

Medium: 1 photographic print.

1 negative: glass; 5 x 7 in.

Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-nclc-01193 (color digital file from b&w original print)

LC-DIG-nclc-05365 (b&w digital file from original glass negative)

LC-USZ62-20501 (b&w film copy negative)

Call Number: LOT 7478, no. 0176 [P&P] LC-H5- 176

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Child-Labor-Glassworks>

Child Labor - Boys Use Unguarded Saws

Lewis Hine photo online, courtesy Library of Congress.

The LOC also provides background information, including a description authored by Lewis Hine:

Boy working at double circular saws. N.Y. Dimension Supply Co. Location: Evansville, Indiana.



Creator(s): Hine, Lewis Wickes, 1874-1940, photographer

Date Created/Published: 1908 October.

Medium: 1 photographic print.

Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-nclc-04469 (color digital file from b&w original print)

LC-USZ62-19576 (b&w film copy negative)

Call Number: LOT 7483, v. 1, no. 0195 [P&P]

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Child-Labor-Boys-Use-Unguarded-Saws>

Child Labor - Shoeless Children

Lewis Hine photo, online courtesy Library of Congress.

The LOC provides additional detail about the photo, including a description by Lewis Hine:
Closing hour, Loray Mill, Gastonia, N.C. One of the smallest boys said he had been in mill 2 or 3 years (and is 12 years old). Location: Gastonia, North Carolina.



Creator(s): Hine, Lewis Wickes, 1874-1940, photographer

Date Created/Published: 1908 November.

Medium: 1 photographic print.

Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-nclc-01356 (color digital file from b&w original print)

LC-USZ62-68186 (b&w film copy negative)

Call Number: LOT 7479, v. 1, no. 0261 [P&P]

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Child-Labor-Shoeless-Children>

Child Labor - Dangerous Equipment

Lewis Hine photo, online courtesy Library of Congress.

The LOC provides additional detail about this photograph, including a description by Lewis Hine:

This shows a typical beet-topping knife, with the dangerous hook on the end that is used to pick up the beet. This is the ten-year-old Walker boy ... belonging to a well-to-do family, but kept out of school to work. Location: Sterling [vicinity], Colorado / Photo by Hine, Oct. 1915.



Creator(s): Hine, Lewis Wickes, 1874-1940, photographer

Date Created/Published: 1915, October.

Medium: 1 photographic print.

Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-nclc-00356 (color digital file from b&w original print)

Call Number: LOT 7475, v. 2, no. 4033 [P&P]

[View this asset at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Child-Labor-Dangerous-Equipment>

Child Miners - Tanzanite

Photo of Tanzanite - rough stone and polished stone, found at C-Block Mine, Merelani Hills (Mererani), Lelatema Mts, Arusha, Tanzania - by Didier Descouens. Online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Child-Miners-Tanzanite>



CHILD MINERS - THEN and NOW

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/CHILD-MINERS-THEN-and-NOW-Illustration->

Real Oliver Twist - Child Labor in Britain

Clip from "The Children Who Built Victorian Britain," copyright BBC, all rights reserved. Clip online via the BBC Channel at YouTube. Clip provided here as fair use for educational purposes and to acquaint new viewers with the program.

Presenter:

Jane Humphries

Director:

Julian Carey

Producer:

Julian Carey

Executive Producer:

Christina Macauley

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Real-Oliver-Twist-Child-Labor-in-Britain>





Child Labor in Britain - Working Orphans

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Presenter:

Jane Humphries

Director:

Julian Carey

Producer:

Julian Carey

Executive Producer:

Christina Macauley

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Child-Labor-in-Britain-Working-Orphans>

Child Labor in Britain - Reduced to 10 Hours

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Presenter:

Jane Humphries

Director:

Julian Carey

Producer:

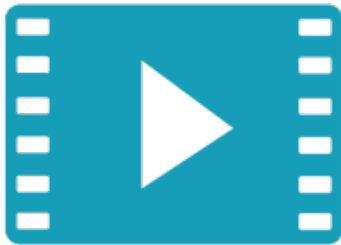
Julian Carey

Executive Producer:

Christina Macauley

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Child-Labor-in-Britain-Reduced-to-10-Hours>



Witness: Child Miners in Bolivia

Clip from "Witness: Child Miners," online courtesy Aljazeera English channel at YouTube. Copyright, Aljazeera English, all rights reserved.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Witness-Child-Miners-in-Bolivia>



Child Miners - Tanzania

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View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Child-Miners-Tanzania>



Child Miners - Ukraine

Clip from documentary on the mining children of Ukraine. Online via YouTube; provided here as fair use for educational purposes and to acquaint new viewers with the program.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Child-Miners-Ukraine>



Dangers in Abandoned Mines

Clip of abandoned New Mexico mine, by NMAML - New Mexico Abandoned Mine Land Program.

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Dangers-in-Abandoned-Mines>

Trailer - "The Devil's Miner"

Clip from "The Devil's Miner," a 2005-released documentary. Copyright, Kief Davidson and Richard Ladkani, all rights reserved. Clip provided here as fair use for educational purposes and to acquaint new viewers with the documentary.

Directors:

Kief Davidson
Richard Ladkani

Producers:

Kief Davidson
Richard Ladkani

Writers:

Kief Davidson
Richard Ladkani

Starring:

Basilio Vargas
The miners of Cerro Rico

Distributed by:

Cinema Delicatessen (theatrical)
First Run Features (theatrical)
YLE Teema (TV)

Release date:

November 30, 2005

Language:

Spanish/English

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Trailer-The-Devil-s-Miner->

